

**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM****Office Memorandum**

Date: 10-24-96

To: CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team

From: Curt Schmutte, Department of Water Resources, Central District

Subject: Delta Island Characterization to Guide Allocation of Funding for Special Habitat/Flood Control Improvement Projects

At our last regular meeting (September 10, 1996), I indicated that I would provide to the Levee and Channel Technical Team background information related to selection of islands for priority application of special projects funding. As you recall, our recommended long-term Delta levee improvement plan includes elements of base level funding for all Delta islands, as well as additional funding for special projects targeted at priority islands.

The team can play an important role in providing a sound technical basis to guide the ongoing application of existing and future public policy for special levee improvement projects that benefit both habitat values and flood control needs. For this purpose, we propose that the team formulate a matrix of Delta island characteristics that are particularly germane to flood control need, considering both existing natural and cultural values that should be given an enhanced level of flood protection. My staff is ready to help the team construct the requisite information base.

Attached you will find a draft list of island evaluation criteria for your review and comment. Once this list is finalized, it will provide the basis for constructing the matrix of important values characterizing each island. We recommend that the chosen criteria be limited to information that already exists or that can easily be generated, allowing the matrix to be compiled within the next several weeks. On the attached list, we have suggested the precise variable that might be used to reflect each criteria. We have also indicated the anticipated source of the information, as far as currently identified. At this time, we are seeking your comments regarding all of this information; that is, the list of appropriate criteria, the measure of each criterion, and the source(s) of existing information for each criteria.

I would appreciate receiving your comments by Monday, November 4 to facilitate modifications of this draft criteria prior to the November 12 meeting. In the interim, my staff will be assembling as much information as possible into the island-by-island matrix employing these draft criteria. Based on this draft criteria, your comments regarding the criteria, and the information we are able to rapidly assemble, we propose to ask the team for an initial review of the information matrix at the November 12 meeting.

Attachment